

Bi-partisan Ethics and Elections Enforcement

We already have a bipartisan board of 9 members. This amendment eliminates the ninth Unaffiliated board member, whom the Governor currently appoints, causing potential deadlocked decisions on ethics and elections laws.

The board's responsibilities include enforcing ethics and elections laws, which include lobbying, campaign finance, and early voting, among other things. So, the board oversees the legislative leaders' actions.

At a time when our government needs a strong system of checks and balances, this amendment eliminates a key check on the General Assembly's power.

Canvassing Talking Points

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Judicial Vacancy Sunshine Amendment

This amendment takes away the Governor's ability to appoint judges for vacancies in between elections and gives selection authority to the legislature. Lawmakers would then be able to choose their own judges who could hear cases against their redistricting and voter suppression laws.

This amendment weakens voters' right to elect judges by extending the term an appointed judge will serve before an election is held. Current appointment terms are up to 2 years and could be extended to up to 4 years.

Finally, this gives the Legislature the authority to add 2 additional seats to the Supreme Court, allowing the new Justices to serve for up to 4 years before voters could elect or replace them.

Cap State Income Tax at 7%

This amendment limits our state's resources to respond to emergencies, natural disasters, and significant infrastructure and education needs by reducing the maximum tax rate from 10%.

Should there be a need for more income, property and sales taxes may be increased instead, affecting citizens with lower income more. It also hurts our ability to raise taxes for necessary spending when federal funding dries up.

Finally, it does NOT reduce the current tax rate of 5.5%.

Victims' Rights

This amendment expands on many existing rights for victims without offering a plan to implement or pay for it. These rights would also apply in cases with juvenile defendants, creating privacy concerns for minors.

This amendment also designates someone as a victim before the defendant has even been charged with a crime. This could also compromise the right to due process for defendants who are innocent until proven guilty.

Right to Hunt & Fish

Essentially, this amendment provides nothing new of value to the citizens of NC since any right to hunt and fish is already at the mercy of the laws and rules of the legislature, and will remain so after the vote either way.

The NRA has pushed similar ballot initiatives in several other states with the goal of being pro-active in protecting gun rights. The Raleigh based conservative Civitas group admits that "...it's possible it's yet another way to help bolster firearm protections here."

Require Photo ID to Vote

Requiring ID to vote may appeal to many voters on the surface. But there is no outline available yet of what types of ID they would approve this time around or how free IDs would be provided to those in need. It could be even more restrictive than their 2013 unconstitutional attempt which eliminated student IDs, government employee IDs, out of state and certain expired driver's licenses among others. In addition, it does not account for absentee ballots which do not require ID, negating the claim to reduce fraud.

It also eliminates the power of the NC State Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the amendment. Once it is in the constitution it is extremely difficult to challenge. This is an attempt to circumvent the previous court ruling by changing the constitution itself.